

Sociedad Funeraria Miguel Hidalgo

will hold their regular meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Salon Miguel Hidalgo on Sunday, January 6, 2019

Sentinel Deadline

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Vol. 108, No. 1 Crystal City, Texas 78839 **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019** USPS No. 781-100 .75 Cents

Blood Drive to be held January 16 in La Pryor

A blood drive will be held at La Pryor Independent School District on Wednesday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the parking lot.

For further information please contact Chelsea Lopez at 830-365-4005. The blood drive is sponsored by NHS.

All high school students 16 and older are eligible to participate in the South

Texas Blood & Tissue Center Honors Cord Program. The program is designed to acknowledge and honor students making significant contributions to the community by serving as blood donors. Seniors who have given blood at least six times are eligible to receive an honorary red cord, to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

Registration for Youth Basketball is January 3

Athletic Booster will be having Basketball last Registration on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at Yolie's Steakhouse starting at 6:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$40.00.

Boosters will be seeking volunteers, and coaches. Sign up and let's have a great turn Out. Let's keep our kids active!

Wells Fargo pays \$575 million to settle state investigations

(AP) — Wells Fargo will pay \$575 million in a settlement with attorneys general from all 50 states and the District of Columbia that are investigating fake accounts opened without the knowledge of customers and a string of other dodgy practices. Under the agreement announced Friday, the bank will also create teams to review and respond to customer complaints about its banking and sales practices.

The bank has been under a cloud since 2015 when it acknowledged that employees had opened millions of fake bank accounts for customers in order to meet sales goals. It has also said that it sold auto insurance and other financial products to customers who didn't need them. Wells Fargo has already been ordered to pay more than \$1.2 billion in penalties and faced stricter regulations.

"This agreement underscores our serious commitment to making things right

in regard to past issues as we work to build a better bank," said CEO Tim Sloan.

Tim Sloan apologized for the phony accounts and other practices during a congressional hearing in 2017, but the company remained under pressure from the weight of all the scandals. The company has announced plans to lay off up to 10 percent of its workforce over the next three years. California, the bank's home state, will get more than a quarter of the settlement funds because of the number of Wells Fargo customers residing there.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra called the bank's behavior "disgraceful". "Wells Fargo customers entrusted their bank with their livelihood, their dreams, and their savings for the future," said Becerra. "Instead of safeguarding its customers, Wells Fargo exploited them, signing them up for products - from bank accounts to insurance - that they never wanted. This is an incredible breach of trust that threatens not only the customers who depended on Wells Fargo, but confidence in our banking system."

Benito Juarez 22nd Annual Christmas Caroling Hayride



The staff and students of Benito Juarez Middle School extend their thanks and appreciation to everyone in the Crystal City and Carrizo Springs community who contributed to the success of our annual Christmas Hayride 2018. Our students invite a parent or guardian to accompany them on a ride through our city neighborhoods singing carols and spreading cheer.

This year Mrs. Tosy Moreno's family, relatives, and friends hosted refreshments for our carolers. We thank them for their thoughtfulness and gratitude.

The carolers made their way to our regular stop downtown at the Lion's Club where Santa Claus and his Mrs. were waiting to greet them. Lion's Club members provided all participants with a goodie bag!

This event would not take place without the help and support of the following organizations and people providing escort, trucks, trailers, drivers, sound system, generator, etc. BJMS teachers and staff, Lion's Club, Zavala County Sheriff's Office and Deputies, Sheriff Salinas {truck and trailer}, Raul Gomez Hot Shot Service {truck and trailers} Cruz Fuentes and Frank Zornak, Joe Sonora Construction {truck and trailer} Ernest Guerrero, Tavo Jimenez Towing {truck and trailer} Simon Gonzalez, Justin Horton {trailer} Jesse Graciano {truck}, Eric Garcia and Heliodoro Valdez

We thank all of the parents and guardians for accompanying our students and coming out to be part of our BJMS holiday tradition. Happy Holidays to everyone!

GOP and Democrats trade blame for shutdown, no deal in sight

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **LISA MASCARO**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The partial government shutdown will almost certainly be handed off to a divided government to solve in the new year, as both parties traded blame Friday and President Donald Trump sought to raise the stakes in the weeklong impasse.

As agreement eludes Washington in the waning days of the Republican monopoly on power, it sets up the first big confrontation between Trump and newly empowered Democrats. Trump is sticking with his demand for money to build a border wall with Mexico, and Democrats, who take control of the House on Jan. 3, are refusing to give him what he wants.

Trump raised the stakes on Friday, reissuing threats to shut the U.S.-Mexico border

to pressure Congress to fund the wall and to shut off aid to three Central American countries from which many migrants have fled.

"We will be forced to close the Southern Border entirely if the Obstructionist Democrats do not give us the money to finish the Wall & also change the ridiculous immigration laws that our Country is saddled with," he wrote in one of a series of tweets.

The president also signaled he was in no rush to seek a resolution, welcoming the fight as he heads toward his own bid for re-election in 2020. He tweeted Thursday evening that Democrats may be able to block him now, "but we have the issue, Border Security, 2020!"

The shutdown is forcing hundreds of thousands of federal workers and contractors to stay home or work without pay, and many are experiencing mounting stress from the

impasse. It also is beginning to pinch citizens who count on certain public services. Gates are closed at some national parks, the government won't issue new federal flood insurance policies and in New York, the chief judge of Manhattan federal courts suspended work on civil cases involving U.S. government lawyers, including several civil lawsuits in which Trump himself is a defendant.

With another long holiday weekend coming and nearly all lawmakers away from the Capitol there is little expectation of a quick fix.

"We are far apart," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told CBS on Friday, claiming of Democrats, "They've left the table all together."

Incoming acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney said Democrats are no longer negotiating with the administration over an earlier offer

to accept less than the \$5 billion Trump wants for the wall. Democrats said the White House offered \$2.5 billion for border security, but that Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told Vice President Mike Pence it wasn't acceptable.

"There's not a single Democrat talking to the president of the United States about this deal," Mulvaney said Friday. Speaking on Fox News, he tried to drive a wedge between Democrats, pinning the blame on Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

"My gut was that (Schumer) was really interested in doing a deal and coming to some sort of compromise. But the more we're hearing this week is that it's Nancy Pelosi who's preventing that from happening," he said.

Mulvaney added of the shutdown: "We do expect this to go on for a while." He

See Shutdown Page 2



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News from your County Agent

BY MARCEL VALDEZ, CEA-ANR / TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Happy New Year to each and every one of you. A fresh new year is once again upon us. It's the time to be thankful for the blessings of the past year and to take stock of all our achievements.

At the same time, New Year 2019 is a brand new year to start afresh, to start strong, and yet another chance to do everything we want to do this year. And may this new year bring you much happiness, good health and tremendous success. Welcome 2019!!!

The 2019 Zavala County Junior Fair Is Here

The start of the new year is also a sure sign that the

Zavala County Junior Fair is once again upon us. The fair will take place next week beginning on Thursday January 10 with the 4-H Cowboy breakfast to get things started bright and early at 6:30 a.m. and will go through 8:00 a.m. Zavala County Bank is the sponsor of the cowboy breakfast free and open to the public.

Also on Thursday the arrival of all animals to the showgrounds will take place and all animals will need to be in the barn by 3:00 p.m. Then at 3:30 p.m. Thursday the official opening ceremonies will take place followed by the weighing and sifting of all animals.

Friday will be a busy day

with the 4-H clover kids checking in with their rabbit projects at 9:00 a.m. and the rabbit show to begin at 10:00 a.m. The judging of the goats, lambs, hogs and steers will take place at 1:00 p.m. and the selection of the grand champions will be held at 6:00 p.m. during the parade of champions portion of the show. Saturday we hope to be a big payoff for the animal exhibitors with the sale of qualifying goats, lambs, steers and hogs. Both Friday and Saturday the 4-H clubs will have a BBQ plate sale starting at 11:00 a.m. both days.

A silent auction of items will be conducted by the Zavala County 4-H county

council starting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday and closing at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Please come out and support these young people as they show the animals they have been taking care of for the past year. For more information about the show contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

Reminder-Texas 4-H Scholarship Application Process is now Open

The 2018 Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation Opportunity Scholarship applications are open! Make sure you're aware of all changes in the process like the application being on 4-H Connect now. Learn more and apply today at <https://texas4hfoundation.org>. You should have completed the FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid) before submitting your application. If you waited and did not get this done you may not have time to get the FAFSA paperwork submitted and receive the SAR report before the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship application deadline! Without this you will not be able to apply!

This is a required document to be attached to the application. In order to make sure that they get the FAFSA SAR Report back in time. If you have done the FAFSA application you are on the right path for completing a 4-H foundation scholarship. For complete instructions on the 4-H scholarship program go to <https://texas4hfoundation.org> contact the Zavala county office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883 for more information

Tip of the Week: 10 Easy Resolutions for Gardeners

Every year, millions of Americans make New Year's resolutions, but research suggests only a fraction actually keep them. It is estimated that between 50 and 80 percent of New Year's resolutions are broken within 2 weeks into the new year.

The common most broken resolutions are losing weight some, trying to eat better, for others it may be to become more active...

some may want to get rid of a horrible habit, and some may vow to stay away from sodas. There are a lot of things that people resolute to doing every year; there are things that some stick to and some don't.

For those that are gardeners or even those that are not, you may want to consider taking on one of these 10 resolutions as your own.

1. Become a gardener: If you have loved the thought of being a gardener but never started you can start now!

2. Test the soil you have: Come by the Zavala County Extension office and pick up a free soil testing bag and instructions on taking a soil sample. When you test your soil you will make sure you know the makeup of your soil and you will also be able to know how much fertilizer and other soil amendments you need to apply.

3. Add a new sustainable method of gardening: You get in a routine when you are gardening but it's good to make sure you have a garden that thinks of the environment as well.

4. Reduce your lawn area: Having a bigger garden will lower the amount of lawn you have... and it means for less mowing, watering, fertilizer and routine lawn care.

5. Plant your own vegetables and herbs: It's nice to be able to cook with your own home grown items.

6. Order your seeds early

7. Plant flowers that attract good bugs

8. Take care of yourself: Take a break every 15 minutes of gardening

9. Come by the Extension office and get some of the many publications we have available on gardening, care of vegetable and flower gardens and many other gardening topics-Available free.

10. Enjoy your garden: Walk around it, sit out... look at your hard work.

Small rewards are great encouragement to keep you going during the hardest first days of some New Year resolutions.

After that you can probably reward yourself once a week with a magazine, a long-distance call to a supportive friend, a siesta, a trip to the movies or whatever makes you tick. Later you can change the rewards to monthly and then at the end of the year you can pick an anniversary reward. Something that you'll look forward to. You deserve it and you'll have earned it.

Whatever your plans and goals are for 2019 I do wish you luck with them but remember, it's your life and you make your own luck. Decide what you want to do in 2019, plan how to get it and go for it. I'll definitely be cheering you on.

Have a wonderful New Year week-M.V.

Shutdown continued from page 1

said Trump had canceled his plans to travel to Florida for New Year's. Democrats brushed off the White House's attempt to cast blame.

"For the White House to try and blame anyone but the president for this shutdown doesn't pass the laugh test," said Justin Goodman, a spokesman for Schumer.

Pelosi has vowed to pass legislation as soon as she takes the gavel, which is expected when the new Congress convenes, to reopen the nine shuttered departments and dozens of agencies now hit by the partial shutdown.

"If they can't do it before Jan. 3, then we will do it," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., incoming chairman of the Rules Committee. "We're going to do the responsible thing. We're going to behave like adults and do our job."

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill added that Democrats "are united against the President's immoral, ineffective and expensive wall" and said Democrats won't seriously consider any White House offer unless Trump backs it publicly because he "has changed his position so many times."

"While we await the President's public proposal, Democrats have made it clear that, under a House Democratic Majority, we will vote swiftly to re-open government on Day One," Hammill said in a statement.

But even that may be difficult without a compromise

because the Senate will remain in Republican hands and Trump's signature will be needed to turn any bill into law.

"I think it's obvious that until the president decides he can sign something — or something is presented to him — that we are where we are," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who opened the Senate on Thursday for a session that only lasted minutes.

"Call it anything," he added, "barrier, fence, I won't say the 'w' word."

Trump long promised that Mexico would pay for the wall, but Mexico refuses to do so. It was unclear how Trump's threat to close the border would affect his efforts to ratify an amended North American free trade pact.

He has also repeatedly threatened to cut off U.S. aid to countries he deems insufficient partners in combating illegal immigration, but has thus far failed to follow through with those threats. Experts have warned that cutting off aid money to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras could actually exacerbate the problem by worsening the poverty and violence that push many migrants to leave those countries.

And it is Congress, not the president, which appropriates aid money. The White House would have to notify Congress if it wanted to cut or reallocate aid, which could delay or complicate the process.

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7 days a week**



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Please be informed that the Dimmit Regional Hospital Nurse Advice line has been changed.

The hours of availability for a nurse to respond are seven days of the week between the hours of 7PM thru 7AM.

For emergencies other than those hours provided, our Emergency Room is available 24/7.

Que la Paz y la Felicidad Reinen en tu hogar en esta Navidad y que el Año Nuevo sea de muchas bendiciones para toda tu familia son los deseos del Pastor Carmelo y Melly Gonzales juntos con

Iglesia Centro de Milagros

Los invitamos a los servicios de Alavanza, oracion y Milagros en nuestro Nuevo Santuario, por fe vendran cosas mejores al matrimonio, a la familia, al trabajo y su negocio.

Proximamente compartiendo la bendicion de Dios estaremos entregando regalos a los niños en el Nuevo Santuario.

Dia de Oracion: Martes, 7:00 pm

Dia de Servicio: Miercoles, 7 pm y Domingo 10 am y 6 pm

Musica por: Carmelo Gonzales, Jr.

Estan todos cordialmente invitados.

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Escucharas: Musica, testimonios, palabra y oracion por los enfermos.



Springs of "Living Water"

by Pastor Dino Espinoza

JUST ONE?

The waitress has not served me as often as others and yet her cheery voice made my breakfast special.

My order was simple: coffee and a two ingredient taco on corn tortilla. With a smile she asked me a question: JUST ONE? I quickly responded: Yes, JUST ONE! As she left the two-word question rang in my mind like a resounding bell – JUST ONE? I rarely eat more than one breakfast taco even though I do have two tortillas with a complete breakfast plate.

JUST ONE? – This could be a good question depending on the circumstances. It could mean that there are more available - or perhaps another one might make my

breakfast better. With that in mind I quickly found a personal lesson.

JUST ONE? Yes, in my live and understanding of truth – I HAVE ONE SAVIOR. His birth is celebrated on December 25 and His life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection encompass the GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD. JUST ONE? – yes, He is all I need for eternal life. When you and I place our trust in Jesus – not only is HE – JUST ONE but THE ONE. NO one takes His place and no one can give us a future hope. Yes, JUST ONE and ONLY ONE!

* * *

¿SOLO UNO?

Lamesera no me ha servido tantas veces como otras

pero aún así su voz tan alegre hizo mi desayuno especial. Mi pedido fue simple: café y un taco de dos ingredientes en tortilla de maíz.

Con una sonrisa ella me hizo una pregunta: ¿SOLO UNO? Pronto le respondí: ¡Sí, SOLO UNO! Al irse ella la pregunta de dos palabras sonó en mi mente como una campana resonante – ¿SOLO UNO? Pocas veces me como más que un taco en mi desayuno aunque puede comerme dos tortillas con un plato completo de desayuno.

¿SOLO UNO? - Esto podría ser una pregunta buena dependiendo en las circunstancias. Puedo significar que hay más disponible o muy posible uno más hará mi desayuno mejor. Con esto en mente pronto encontré una lección personal.

¿SOLO UNO? Sí, en mi vida y mi entendimiento de verdad – YO TENGO UN SALVADOR. Su nacimiento se celebra el 25 de diciembre y Su vida, ministerio, palabras, muerte y resurrección abarcan la MAS GRANDE HISTORIA JAMAS DICHA. SOLO UNO? – sí, El es todo lo que necesito para la vida eterna. Cuando Ud. y yo ponemos nuestra confianza en Jesus – no es El SOLO UNO pero EL UNICO. Nadie toma Su lugar y nadie nos ofrece una esperanza para el futuro. Sí SOLO UNO y EL UNICO.

Poems by Chonchis

Refranes

Hoy les escribo sobre algunos refranes, no es falta de mi propio material, solo que se que leyendo estos refranes recordaran disfrutenlos.

1. Cria Cuervos y te scaran los ojos.
2. Agarra al toro por los cuernos al hombre por la palabra.
3. La gallina vieja hace buen caldo.
4. Perro que ladra no muerde.
5. El gallo bueno canta igual en su corral que en el ajeno.
6. Como el perro del hortelano, ni come ni deja comer.
7. Mas vale pajarito en mano que cien volando.
8. No pierdas la oportunidad de quedarte calladito.
9. El que mucho aharga poco aprieta.
10. El que rie ultimo rie mejor.
11. La suegra ni aun de azucar es buena.
12. Si la vecina te alaba y te felicita es que para algo te necesita.
13. Al pais que fueras, haz lo que vieres.
14. Con la vara que mides seras me dido.
15. Donde manda capitan no gobierna marinero.

Paso a Paso

Nunca deberiamos de criticar a nuestros semejantes antes de caminar en sus zapatos porque como dice un cierto dicho, "nadie sabe lo que hay en la olla nomas el que la menea."

Somos humanos y cometemos errores al pensar que podriamos cambiar lo que otra persona hace. Deveria hacer si saber la razon por la cual esa persona o personas actuaron de tal manera.

No deberiamos juzgarlos porque nosotros tambien seremos juzgados y como dice una cancion, "tu ponte en mi lugar aver que harias." Podriamos mejor caminar a su lado para que sirvas de apollo.

Asi es "no te apures pa que dures!" 7/21/2018

Bienvenido Mi Amigo

Bienvenido mi amigo. Sientate, vamos a platicar

los buenos momentos. Hoy vamos a recordar.

Tu jornada fue larga. Cansado has de estar asi. es que toma asiento y vamos a platicar.

Recuerdas cuando desde muy temprano, al amanecer, llegabamos a los labores de betabel. Trabajabamos todo el dia.

Un taquito en una mano en la otra el asadon, que riendo hacer lo mas posible antes de anochecer.

Bienvenido amigo, tiempo de recordar esos recuerdos son valiosos como un tesoro segrado porque el recordar es volver a vivir. 4/11/2018



Are you up for saving lives?

Blood Drive

La Pryor ISD Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 16
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
In the Parking Lot

For further information, please contact
Chelsea Lopez
830-365-4005
Sponsored by NHS

SouthTexasBlood.org/GenGive

Students donating for life. #GenGive

All high school students 16 and older are eligible to participate in the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center Honors Cord Program. The program is designed to acknowledge and honor students making significant contributions to the community by serving as blood donors. Seniors who have given blood at least six times are eligible to receive an honorary red cord, to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

Blood Donor Requirements { Anyone who is 16 years old and weighs at least 120 pounds (with a parental consent form), or at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds, and in good general health, can donate blood. Donors must present photo ID, last four digits of Social Security number and birth date.

Primera Iglesia Bautista

DOMINGO/SUNDAY

Escuela Dominical/Bible Study. . .10:00 AM
Predicacion/Worship Service. . . .11:00 AM

Juan Fernandez, Deacon
204 N. 2ND ST. • CRYSTAL CITY

Remember to "Render!" Taxable property renditions are due April 15.

Does this apply to you?

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, such as the equipment or inventory owned by a business, it does.

What is a rendition?

A rendition is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all of the taxable property that you owned or controlled on Jan. 1 of this year. This often applies to furniture, fixtures, equipment or inventory owned by a business.

What are the advantages of filing?

- You give your opinion of your property's value.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address.
- If your property's value depreciated, you can file a report of decreased value.

What is the deadline?

- The last day for filing renditions is April 15.
- An automatic extension to May 15 is available if requested in writing by the April 15 deadline.
- The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days to an owner who shows good cause in writing.

REMEMBER!!

Filing is your responsibility. If you render late, don't render, or file an incomplete or false rendition, you may face a 10 to 50 percent penalty.

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

ZAVALA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
323 W. ZAVALA ST.
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS 78839
(830) 374-3475

¿Recuerde rendir la declaración de los impuestos!

Declarar los impuestos de la propiedad imponible vence el 15 de abril.

¿Aplica esto a usted?

Esto aplica a usted si es el dueño de propiedad personal tangible utilizada para producir ingresos, tal como equipo o inventario de un negocio.

¿Qué significa rendir la declaración de impuestos?

Una rendición de los impuestos es presentar un informe a su distrito de tasaciones del condado que liste toda la propiedad imponible de la que es usted dueño o que controlaba el 1ero de enero de este año. Muchas veces esto se refiere a muebles, equipo fijo o inventario del negocio.

¿Qué ventajas tiene declarar los impuestos?

- Usted brinda su opinión sobre el valor de la propiedad.
- Usted brinda su opinión sobre el valor de la propiedad.
- Registra la dirección exacta con el fin de recibir la factura de los impuestos a la dirección correcta.
- En caso de que el valor de la propiedad depreciara, usted puede presentar un informe del valor depreciado.

¿Cuál es la fecha de vencimiento?

- El último día para presentar la declaración de los impuestos del 15 de abril.
- Puede solicitar una extensión automática al 15 de mayo por escrito en o antes de la fecha límite del 15 de abril.
- El jefe de tasaciones puede conceder 15 días adicionales después de la fecha de vencimiento al propietario que muestre razón justa por escrito.

¡RECUERDE!

Rendir la declaración de los impuestos es su responsabilidad. Puede enfrentar una multa del 10 hasta el 50 por ciento si rinde los impuestos tarde, no rinde o rinde con información incompleta o falsa.

Presente su rendición al distrito local de tasaciones en:

ZAVALA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
323 W. ZAVALA ST.
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS 78839
(830) 374-3475

A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$25,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$25,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$25,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. It doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the age 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling for age 65 or older or disabled homeowners. The age 65 or older homeowners school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is age 55 or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses age 55 or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling to a new home.

If you are a disabled veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child of a disabled veteran, you are entitled to an exemption of a portion of the appraised value of your residence homestead. This includes homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost to the disabled veterans, and their surviving spouses.

If you're a disabled veteran who receives 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead. Surviving spouses of veterans who qualified for this exemption or who would have qualified for this exemption if it had been effective at the time of the veteran's death are also eligible with certain restrictions.

If you are the surviving spouse of a U.S. armed services member killed in action, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your residence homestead.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home last year, you won't need to reapply unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file an application for exemption. If you are age 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you became age 65. And if you became disabled, you may file for the disabled person's exemption.

When and where should I file?

File applications before May 1 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

ZAVALA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
323 W. ZAVALA ST.
CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS 78839
(830) 374-3475

Small Business - “What You Need to Know”

Phyllis R. Varnon

Prairie View A&M University, Community & Economic Development Cooperative Extension - Zavala, Dimmit, Uvalde Counties



How to Handle Post-Holiday Debt for Business Owners and Consumers

By Trent Hamm

We have some happy memories, but the joy of the holidays will soon be gone and we start a new year and move through the rest of the winter season.

In many mailboxes, bills from the countless expenses of the holiday season are starting to arrive. People used their credit cards for gifts, food, flights, hotels, gasoline, and all of the other expenses that often come with celebrating the holidays. Even people who are otherwise pretty smart with their money are sometimes facing credit card bills this time of the year.

Our January credit card bills are usually the largest of the year thanks to all of the expenses that the holiday season delivers to us.

We're thankful that we've planned ahead for this and we can pay off the entirety of these debts, but that's certainly not true for a lot of Americans. Many Americans simply find themselves launching the New Year with an uncomfortable level of debt because of the just-past holiday season.

What can you do when you're usually in good financial shape but you're facing this sudden burst of debt? Here are eight strategies for handling that debt.

1. Focus on the highest interest debt.

You should always make the minimum payments on all of your debts, but if you have debts spread across multiple credit cards and loans, your focus should be squarely on whichever debt has the highest interest rate.

This is the fundamental principle of a [debt repayment plan](#), which is simply an organized list of your debts so that you always know which debt you should be focused on. My recommended debt repayment plan organizes your debts by interest rate, with the highest interest rate debt always at the top of the list.

That top debt should be your focus. It should be the one that draws all of your extra money and attention because it's the one that's draining your wallet at the fastest rate.

2. Always pay more than

the minimum on your “focus” debt.

This is *the* key to getting rid of high interest debt. You absolutely *have* to be making more than the minimum payment on whichever debt you've chosen to focus on.

Let's say, for example, that you have a credit card with a \$2,500 balance on it that has a 19.9% interest rate on it. The minimum payment is \$66, and if you kept that up for *sixty one* months, you'd pay off that card. The only problem is that you'll be paying \$4,026 in order to pay off that card. \$1,526 goes *completely to interest* – you get *nothing* for that \$1,526.

What happens if you bump that monthly payment up to \$116 – just adding \$50 more a month? You cut your payoff time down to just 27 months, but even better, your total payment is \$3,132. You're only paying \$632 in interest over the course of that loan.

By simply paying \$50 more a month, you pay off that debt almost three years earlier and pay a total of \$894 *less* in interest on that debt.

Addressing your debts head-on with as much extra payment as you can will save you money – a lot of money.

3. Purge your closets.

One powerful step that anyone can take to get a big boost against their debts is to simply dig through their closets and sell off some of their unused stuff.

One great way to start with this is to look at your recent holiday gifts? Are there any items that are just sitting there unopened that you'll probably never use? Maybe you got a duplicate of something you already own or a gift that just doesn't match who you are (such as a hamburger press given to a vegetarian).

The other technique is to simply go through your closets and other storage spaces, like your attic and the rafters of your garage. Pull everything out and go through it, asking yourself along the way whether you really need to keep this stuff.

I go through our closets and storage spaces twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall. Each time, I ask myself whether there's a realistic chance that I'll ever use or re-use this stuff. I find that at first it's easy to convince

myself that I'll use the item and put it back in place, but when I see something I haven't used for the third or fourth time, it's a lot easier to consider that I'm probably not going to use it and that I should sell it off.

Whenever you identify some items that you can sell, the best place to start is [Craigslist](#), as it allows you to sell locally (meaning no shipping issues) and almost everything eventually sells on there. I do use [eBay](#) for specific collectibles, but for most items, Craigslist is just easier.

One big tip: price things to sell. Don't worry about maximizing your dollar or you're going to wind up having to re-list things and spend a bunch of time dealing with it just to earn a few extra dollars.

Once you've done your selling, take the proceeds and apply them to your credit card with the highest interest rate. You'll immediately cut the balance and, even better, you'll reduce the interest you'll be paying on that debt.

4. Transfer that balance and consolidate.

In an effort to drum up business, many credit card companies offer balance transfers where, if you sign up for their credit card, they'll allow you to transfer the balance of one (or more) of your other credit cards to that new card, usually with a 0% interest rate on that transferred balance that lasts for a long while, as much as eighteen months.

There are many variations on these kinds of offers. Some of them simply defer the interest for eighteen months on any portion of the transfer that you didn't pay off. Other offers simply don't count the interest at all. You'll need to study the specific balance transfer offers available to you.

Want to find one? The easiest method is to simply visit the website of a major credit card provider such as Chase, Citi, or Bank of America and see what they have to offer.

The trick here is to not forget about the money you transferred just because you're not paying interest on it right now. When including such debts in my debt repayment plan, I usually subtract 1% from that debt's normal interest rate for each month left on the balance transfer. This isn't a hard rule, just a little tool I used when repaying my debts to keep track of balance transfer offers and switch my focus to them when appropriate.

So, for example, if I've transferred a 20% interest and have 6 months left, I count it as having a 14% interest rate. If I have a debt that's at 13%, I'll focus on that at first, but when the end of the balance transfer gets close, I'll switch my focus.

The key here is to keep that high interest at bay and using that breathing room to knock some of your debts down. If there's anything that's going to really drain your finances and make it hard for you to succeed financially, it's high interest rates. They simply sap your money.

5. Cut back in smart ways.

Cutting back often gets a bad rap. People often immediately think of their favorite splurge – the one that they really value – and associate “cutting back” with losing that particular splurge, so they think of it as miserable.

That's the wrong perspective to take. You should focus your efforts in cutting back on the areas of your life that are *less* important to you, not more important.

Focus on things like the light bulbs in your home. Replacing them with LED bulbs will end up saving you at least \$100 per bulb over the lifespan of the bulb.

Focus on things like your laundry detergent or your soap crackers or your canned tomatoes. Buy those things in generic form, as the generic version is often functionally identical to the name brand version.

Focus on things like driving a little less. Take the train into the city once in a while instead of driving. Talk to a friend about carpooling a few days a week, saving you a portion of your commuting costs.

Focus on things like the temperature in your home. Play around with different settings, like lowering the temperature a few degrees in the winter and raising it in the summer. Look for places where you feel a draft, find where that draft is coming from, and figure out how to seal it up.

In other words, focus on cutting back hard on the things that don't matter so that you can maintain the things that do matter.

Notice I used the word “maintain” there. When you're cutting back in some areas, you're going to have more money available to you. Don't use that money to elevate your life. Instead, use it to get rid of those holiday debts and, when they're gone, use it to improve other areas of your financial life, like building an emergency fund, saving for a down payment, launching your retirement savings, and so on.

6. Stop using your credit card (for a while).

It's the convenience of the credit card that often gets people in trouble. They see something that they want, whether it's a perfect holiday gift for someone or perhaps something they want for themselves, and they simply buy without thinking too much about it. If they think about it at all, they just assume that their future self will pay for it.

That's a huge mistake, and it's one that's fueled by the ease of use of credit cards.

Again, the key here isn't to deny yourself the things that you want. The key is to be more mindful of the things that you're actually spending your money on. Is this thing you're about to buy going to be something you're really going to use a lot? Or will it wind up stuffed in the closet in a month or two? Do you really need this item of clothing? Do you really need this new book or this new game?

You don't have to completely abandon purchases or talk yourself out of everything you might want. Instead, just spend more time thinking about whether or not you want the things you're spending your money on.

The easiest way to reintroduce mindfulness into your purchases is to use a few simple rules for purchases. I use two: the ten second rule and the thirty day rule.

The ten second rule is something I use for small purchases, say, ones under \$10. If it's not a completely planned purchase – like something on my grocery list – I hold it in my hand for ten seconds while I think about whether I really need it. Is there something else smarter I could be doing with that money? Is there another way to get what ever it is I'm hoping to get out of this item?

On the other hand, the thirty day rule is something I apply

to all purchases over that ten dollar threshold. If it's not an absolute necessity (or not a truly exceptional sale that I will lose if I wait), I don't buy the item for thirty days. I wait on it. Often, my desire to buy that item will pass.

It's also useful to delete your credit card numbers and account information from your preferred web browser. This forces you to take the time to re-enter this information each time you're considering a purchase. Consider it a way to enforce the ten second rule mentioned above.

7. Use annual bonuses and tax returns for debt repayment.

Some people receive an annual bonus from their employer in December or January. Others receive a tax return in the first few months of the year. Some receive both.

While it's tempting to look at that money as a windfall with which to buy lots of fun items, step back for a moment and look at the big picture. These kinds of windfalls actually give you a unique opportunity to take care of those pesky debts and get your financial house in order.

So, instead of tossing all of that little windfall into whatever splurge you had in mind, consider instead putting some or all of it toward your highest interest debt. You might even be able to eliminate that debt in one shot.

While it can be kind of painful to turn away from a long-anticipated splurge, the benefits of doing this are many.

For starters, your bonus or tax refund will begin paying dividends immediately – and those dividends will last. You'll no longer have that credit card payment to deal with (or it'll be highly reduced), which means that you'll have more breathing room each month. Your stress level will go down since you don't have that debt to deal with.

Basically, it's a method of taking a sledgehammer to your debt.

8. Live without your raise.

One final strategy revolves around the cost of living raises that many employers give out at the end of the year to their employees. Often, this raise amounts to a 2% to 3% bump in pay.

Consider simply living without that raise. Note the difference in your new paychecks versus your old paychecks and use that difference to dig yourself out of debt.

This year happens to be a very good year for trying out this strategy. Low gas prices means that many people are already spending a little less than they expected, so even if inflation hits the other things you buy a little bit in the coming year, the lower gas prices will help take the edge off.

Figure out how much extra you'll be bringing home in the form of your cost of living raise each month and tack that on the payment of your highest interest debt *beyond the minimum payment*. For example, if you discover that your twice-monthly check went up by \$30 due to a raise, then just add \$60 as a bonus to your debt payment each month.

This little change won't affect your standard of living much at all, but it will certainly accelerate your debt repayment. Stick with this throughout the year and even keep it going into the next year. You can even add together two or three years of raises in this way.

There's also another little

hidden bonus to this strategy: it keeps lifestyle inflation at bay. As people see an increase in their pay, they're often tempted to raise their material lifestyle in parallel. Beyond a certain minimal point, that's usually a mistake because it leaves you in a situation where your spending far outstrips your means if you ever hit a bump in the road. You are far better off keeping your spending at a reasonable level and use your raises to ensure your long-term financial future.

Finally, let's take a moment to look ahead to the holiday season that will cap *this* year.

Start Preparing Now to Avoid This Debt Next Year

You *know* that the holidays are going to come again at the end of the year. You *know* that they're going to bring extra expenses along with them. So why not start preparing now?

Personally, I like the “Christmas club” strategy, named after a special savings account that my family's bank used to offer when I was a kid. With that account, if you deposited \$10 or \$20 each week for 49 weeks into this account starting in mid-December and continuing into late November of the following year, they'd make the fiftieth payment and give you the total value of that account – \$500 or \$1,000 – at the beginning of December. That was perfect timing for holiday spending.

You can implement this yourself by simply transferring \$10 or \$20 (or \$50 or whatever you need) per week into a “holiday” savings account designed to cover gifts, travel, meals, and other holiday expenses. I highly recommend setting up an account with an online bank like [Capital One 360](#) for this purpose. Set up an automatic weekly transfer to take that small amount out of your account each week.

If you do that for fifty weeks, \$10 will turn into a bit more than \$500 (thanks to interest) and \$20 will turn into a little more than \$1,000. If travel is in your holiday plans, you might want to consider \$50 a week, which will add up to more than \$2,500 over the course of fifty weeks.

This simple plan will take care of a *ton* of holiday stress at the end of this year and will prevent you from re-reading this article again next January.

Final Thoughts

There was a time in my life when I truly dreaded the holiday bills. In fact, it was the post-holiday bills in early 2006 that led directly into our financial meltdown. It was that low point that started our financial turnaround that led us to the debt free lifestyle we enjoy today.

Managing holiday expenses is actually a big part of maintaining that debt-free life. It is so tempting to overspend during the holidays, but that overspending can haunt you for a very long time.

Here's your plan: work very hard this year using the strategies above to get rid of your holiday debt from last year. At the same time, implement a “holiday savings” strategy so that you don't fall into this trap again at the end of this year.

Next January, you'll find yourself in a much, *much* happier position.

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Migrant teen tent city staying open into 2019

By **GARANACE BURKE and ANITA SNOW, Associated Press**

The Trump administration said Wednesday it will keep open through early 2019 a tent city in Texas that now holds more than 2,000 migrant teenagers, and also will increase the number of beds at another temporary detention center for children in Florida.

The Tornillo facility opened in June in an isolated corner of the Texas desert with capacity for up to 360 children. It eventually grew into a highly guarded detention camp where, on Christmas, some 2,300 largely Central American boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 17 slept in more than 150 canvas tents.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Mark Weber said Tornillo, which originally was slated to close Dec. 31, has stopped receiving new referrals of migrant youth.

Tornillo will now shut down after the new year, Weber said, but he did not give an exact date or more precise time frame for when it might close for good.

The agency is working with its network of shelters including Tornillo to release the children "to suitable sponsors as safely and quickly as possible," he said.

The government also plans to house more teens at another temporary shelter in Homestead, Florida, expanding the total number of beds from 1,350 to 2,350, he added.

Tornillo came under fire last month after revelations that the Trump administration had waived FBI fingerprint checks for the 2,100 staff working there and allowed the private contractor running the facility to have just one mental health clinician for every 100 children. In November, Health and Human Services officials said they hoped the fingerprints would be completed in a month but they haven't given an update.

Lawmakers called for stricter background checks, more mental health support and a public hearing to further investigate problems at Tornillo raised by a federal watchdog report and an Associated Press investigation.

The federal program originally intended to offer a safe haven to vulnerable children fleeing danger across the globe has expanded considerably over the last two years. Three months after President Donald Trump took office there were 2,720 migrant youth in government care. Today, the system has 16,000 beds available for migrant children.

Confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by AP has shown that as the year draws to a close, about 9,800 detained migrant children are in facilities holding 100-plus total kids, including Tornillo and Homestead.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and many experts warn against institutionalizing children in large groups, saying the experience of treating the young migrants like cogs in a big machine can have severe psychological consequences and cause lifelong trauma.

Weber has said that sheltering children in large facilities, while not preferable, is a better alternative than holding them for long periods at Border Patrol stations ill-suited to care for them.



Mr. & Mrs. Castro and family



Ms. Rodriguez family and Ms. Simon family

Three Families from Lorenzo de Zavala Elementary School were the recipients of a Christmas meal with all the trimmings and a roster. Donations were provided by Abie Martinez, South Texas Rock Haulers and Bobby & Berta Rodriguez Beverage Barn. Happy Holidays!

How to find and apply for scholarships

(StatePoint) Savvy students and families know that scholarships can play an integral role in meeting college costs.

To help students and families find and apply for scholarships, Sallie Mae, the nation's saving, planning, and paying for college company, is offering six tips:

- Get an early start. Apply for scholarships your junior year of high school and every year in college. Approximately 50 percent of available scholarships are for students already enrolled in college. There are also many scholarships available for graduate school.

- Don't miss out. To qualify for \$150 billion in financial aid, including scholarships, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Schools use the FAFSA to put together financial aid packages, states use it to determine eligibility for state aid, and it's required for many scholarship applications. Some aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, or from programs with limited funds, so the earlier families fill out the FAFSA, the better.

- Remember, not everything is a deal. Never pay for scholarships and be wary of "guaranteed" money. Don't be lured in by sites or organizations that charge a fee to access scholarship applica-

tions. School counselors and school financial aid offices can recommend reputable options.

- Even small savings count. Many scholarships may just be for a few hundred dollars, but these can add up and can be used for a variety of college expenses. Apply for as many as possible -- you'll be surprised how much you can earn.

- Take advantage of doorbusters. Some scholarship awards are as easy as showing up and registering. Sallie Mae, for example, offers a \$1,000 monthly sweepstakes for those who sign up for its free college planning tools.

- Keep an eye out for unique gifts. Scholarships are not limited to athletics and academics. There is free money for college for just about any interest, including awards for left-handed students, skateboarders, and bakers.

To find additional tips and to register for Sallie Mae's Scholarship Search, home to 5 million scholarships collectively worth more than \$24 billion, or the recently launched Graduate School

Scholarship Search, home to 850,000 graduate school scholarships worth more than \$1 billion, visit www.salliemae.com. After filling out a brief profile, students are matched with relevant scholarships, their award amounts, application requirements, and deadlines. The tool automatically sends updates when it identifies new matches.

"Scholarships are one of the most prevalent funding

sources families use to help pay for college," said Martha Holler, senior vice president, Sallie Mae. "The key is knowing where to find them, and how to apply."

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EVENT CENTER

THIS WAS THE NEWS

From the Files of the Zavala County Sentinel

APRIL 21, 1933

The Crystal City High School Girl's Glee Club, accompanied by Mrs. Clyde Tate, director, returned home Sunday afternoon with the loving cup which they won at the 11th annual musical festival of the Texas Interscholastic Music Meet held at Belton Friday and Saturday.

The play "Spooky Tavern" will be presented by the Senior Class on April 27. Members of the cast are Kenneth Miller, Sarah Neale Ready, Jane Speedy, Margaret Jackson, Helen Deal, Sue Grace White, Luke Thompson, Leslie Hopper, Billy Brennan, Earl Horn and Jones Spann.

The Crystal City postmaster must take his 15 percent cut in salary along with the others. This office has been paying \$2,500 per year but hereafter will pay \$2,125.

Three new district records were set last Saturday at Uvalde in the Interscholastic League track meet. Abe Sawyers of Crystal City set a new district record of 6 feet 1 inch in the high jump. Chasteen of La Pryor set another new record when he covered the half mile in 2:9.4 minutes. The third record was made by Finger of Hondo, making the 120-yard high hurdles in 15:7. It is understood that Abe Sawyers was only a few inches behind Finger when he struck the tape, giving Sawyers 2nd place.

Amos Ferris won first place in the javelin throw. Other Crystal City boys who placed were Fred Miller, Elmer Donnell, Jack Pegues, James Spann and Leslie Hopper.

Gran jurors for spring term of District Court: W.R. Parsons, Paul Ehlers, E.W. Brice, Reuben Keller, William Clark, T.R. Price, Frank Harris Jr., A.F. Parr, Buck Simpson, W.T. Childress Jr., C.A. Brown, E.L. Ready, A.C. Dietrich, R.M. Hagens, I.C. Cribbs, David Kite.

Only 4 carloads of spinach were shipped the past week and this just gets the crop. Last week 27 carloads of spinach and 2 carloads of onion plants were shipped.

Shipments for the season include 2726 cars of spinach, mixed vegetables 127 cars, onion plants 26 cars, broccoli 22 cars, cauliflower 12 cars, tomatoes 2 cars, and carrots, 1 car.

APRIL 5, 1946

His Excellency, Dr. Ghesseme Ghani, Iranian minister, is in the Crystal Hospital suffering effect of an accident on March 15. With his secretary, Miss Katherine Eichorn, who is also a patient, he was en-route from California to the UNO meeting in Mexico City. The accident occurred on the highway between Eagle Pass and Carrizo Springs.

A memorial service honoring Robert Alton Pegues, who lost his life over in Germany on February 25, 1945 while in the service of his country, will be held at First Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon.

The Zavala County school board has been called to meet today to examine petitions calling for an election to vote on the proposition of creating a Junior College District, centering around Garner Field at Uvalde.

Miss Estefana Amaya, daughter of Mrs. Sabina Amaya, was elected queen in a contest sponsored by the Societies of the Catholic Church. She was crowned queen Sunday, March 31, at the Grammar School auditorium by the Consul of Nicaragua, Mr., Alonso S. Perales.

APRIL 5, 1963

The all Latin-American ticket, backed by the Citizens Concerned for Better Government, won all five positions on the City Council Tuesday in the biggest election ever held in Crystal City.

Highest number of votes were received by Manuel Maldonado. He received a total 864 votes. In second position was Juan Cornejo with 818 votes. J. Mario Hernandez and Antonio G. Cardenas tied with 799 votes each. Reynaldo Mendoza received 765 votes. A total of 1,752 votes were cast.

Members of the Twenty-four Club elected officers at the meeting held on March 26 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Webb. Mrs. J.R. Campbell was elected president and Mrs. Jack Harris, vice president. Other officers elected were Mrs. Malcolm Maedgen Jr., secretary, Mrs. Ben Gault, treasurer, Mrs. R.D. Harper, reporter, and Mrs. Guy Webb, parliamentarian. Before the meeting the members and their husbands enjoyed a barbecues steak dinner.

Army PFC Santiago De Hoyos Jr., 23, recently completed 12 days of training with the 8th Infantry Division; 12th Engineer Battalion in Baumholder, Germany.

Navy Ensign Fred W. Miller., reported to the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, for the final phase of training as a naval aviator.

On Friday night, several young couples of the Batesville community met at the home of Thomas Richeys for an evening of bridge competition. Present were Art McKinleys, the Lee Roy Crawfords, the Cecil Davis, the C.W. Capps, the Bernard Browns, and the Thomas Richeys. The wives has planned the get-to-gether in order that they might teach their husbands to play bridge.

APRIL 5, 1973

La Raza Unida Party Kept its control of the City of Crystal City by winning all three seats in Tuesday's election. La Raza Unida ran Jose D. Cuevas, Richard Diaz, and Ramon (Monche) Mata for the three council seats presently held by Mayor Francisco Benavides, Roberto Gamez, and Jose Talamantez. Non of the incumbents ran for re-election. Opposing the RUP slate were three independent candidates, former Chief of Police Eliseo C. Sanchez Jr., former councilman Roberto Cornejo, and Manuel M. Garza.

The Big Wells ladies softball team defeated the Crystal City Olive Oils by a score of 9-8 in a game played in Big Wells last Sunday.

Looking into the Sentinel Photo Vault.



1983-VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

The varsity cheerleaders at Crystal City High School have been selected.

They are, front row from left

Debbie Sepulveda

Patricia Flores,

Letty Tovar, co-head cheerleader, and

Dolores Rodriguez;

back row,

Melissa Lopez,

Martha Hernandez,

Nelda Flores, head cheerleader,

and veronica Flores.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: AMERICAN AUTHORS

ACROSS

1. ___bat or ___phobe
5. *Old Man's turf
8. Old-fashioned "over"
11. Group of countries
12. Bayonet action
13. Sailing vessel with two masts
15. **Up the Down Stair___" by Kaufman
16. Philosopher Marx
17. Poetic although
18. *Whaling writer
20. Soak some ink
21. Golf course
22. Hawaiian dish
23. **"Slouching Towards Bethlehem" essayist
26. Tax break
30. Singer Yoko
31. Bodily fluids
34. Three-ply snack
35. Parkinson's disease drug
37. Debt acknowledgment
38. Special way of doing something
39. EU money
40. Chevy Chase's 1985 comedy
42. One little piggie?
43. Plunder
45. Bias crime perpetrators
47. Pied Piper's follower
48. Feed the fire
50. Rare bills
52. *Female Nobel winner
55. Olden day calculators
56. Home-grown healer
57. H.S. math class
59. Azaria and Aaron
60. Known for its cabs
61. Sports award
62. 're
63. "But I heard him exclaim, ___ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all..."
64. Wander about

DOWN

1. **"Dr. Seuss's ___" alphabet book
2. Chowder protein
3. "A ___ is a ___ is a ___..."
4. Plural of ocellus
5. Corn holder
6. British peers

7. Having the means
8. Doctor Octopus' first name
9. Not counterfeit
10. Greek R
12. Fit for some jeans
13. Shish ___
14. **"Invisible Man" author
19. Actress Davis
22. Product of inflammation
23. Dished out

24. Empower
25. Morrison's "The ___"
26. "Open and ___" case
27. About to explode
28. Joanna Gaines' concern
29. Ox connectors
32. Grain grinder
33. *Master of the macabre
36. **"American Authors" genre
38. Shade of Dockers

40. In good shape
41. Movement disorder
44. Desert mirage
46. SAT administrator
48. Type of renewable energy
49. Figure of speech
50. Type of ski lift
51. Do like the moon
52. Lion's do
53. Guesstimate phrase
54. Australian palm
55. Norwegian band
58. Sweaty spot

Solutions for December 26 puzzles

2	5	8	7	6	4	3	9	1
7	1	9	5	3	2	6	8	4
4	3	6	8	9	1	2	7	5
6	2	3	4	8	9	5	1	7
1	4	5	3	7	6	8	2	9
8	9	7	2	1	5	4	3	6
9	8	1	6	5	3	7	4	2
3	6	4	1	2	7	9	5	8
5	7	2	9	4	8	1	6	3

A	S	I	A	M	A	M	S	L	E	D				
G	U	R	U	D	A	T	A	I	C	I	L	I	L	Y
O	D	O	R	E	M	I	R	D	H	O	L	E		
S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	I	N	N	S			
R	O	A	S	T	B	O	A							
S	T	U	A	R	T	T	E	M	P	T	S			
N	I	L	D	E	F	R	A	Y	P	U	P	A		
A	P	T	L	Y	L	U	X	A	S	T	I	R		
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US stocks slide, erasing early gains as oil price falls

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks veered lower Friday morning, giving back early gains as the market continued to be gripped by volatile trading. Technology companies and energy stocks accounted for much of the decline. Homebuilders slumped following a report indicating that fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes last month. The market, which is coming off a two-day winning streak, is on track for its worst year since 2008.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index fell 4 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,484 as of 11:27 a.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 45 points, or 0.2 percent, to 23,093. The tech-heavy Nasdaq declined 11 points,

or 0.2 percent, to 6,567. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 1 point, or 0.1 percent, 1,329.

On Thursday the Dow erased a 600 point loss and finished with a gain of 260 points. The swing was indicative of the volatility that has gripped the stock market throughout December.

THE QUOTE: "It seems like convulsions in either direction have been the real norm for much of December and that's certainly been the case this week," said Eric Wiegand senior portfolio manager for Private Wealth Management at U.S. Bank. "The initial push higher and then seeing it subside a little bit is perhaps getting back to a little bit more of a normal environment, reflecting the reality that we have still a

number of issues overhanging the market."

VOLATILE WEEK: Volatility has been the norm in December as investors have grown worried that the testy U.S.-China trade dispute and higher interest rates would slow the economy, hurting corporate profits. The Dow has dropped 1 percent or more in eight of the last 17 trading sessions. The market's sharp downturn since October has intensified this month, erasing all its 2018 gains and nudging the S&P 500 closer to its worst year since 2008. Even with the two-day winning streak heading into Friday, the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq are all down more than 9 percent for the month and stocks are on track for their worst December since 1931.

HOUSE OF PAIN: Homebuilders fell broadly after the National Association of Realtors said its pending home sales index fell last month as fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes. Higher mortgage rates and prices are squeezing would-be buyers out of the market, especially in the West. Beazer Homes USA dropped 1.7 percent to \$9.53.

TECH SLIDES: Technology companies, a big driver of the market's gains before things deteriorated in October, declined. Adobe slid 1.4 percent to \$221.95.

MORE OVERSIGHT: Tesla rose 2.1 percent to \$322.88 after naming two independent directors to its board under an agreement with federal regulators.

ENERGY: Oil prices lost some of their early momentum. Benchmark U.S. crude was up 0.4 percent to \$44.76 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, turned lower, shedding 0.5 percent to \$52.45 a barrel in London.

Energy sector stocks declined. Cabot Oil & Gas slid 3.3 percent to \$22.98, while Newfield Exploration lost 2.7 percent to \$14.11.

BOND YIELDS: Bonds prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury held at 2.74 percent.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 110.39 yen from Thursday's 110.74 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1442 from \$1.1449.

MARKETS OVERSEAS: In Europe, Germany's DAX rose 1.7 percent and France's CAC 40 added 1.6 percent. London's FTSE 100 gained 2 percent. Major indexes in Asia finished mostly higher. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.3 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended 0.1 percent higher. Seoul's Kospi added 0.6 percent. India's Sensex gained 1 percent. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Singapore also rose.

Texas shelters grapple with more migrants released by US

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A shelter director in the Texas border city of El Paso says his agency has served 1,300 people in the last five days after they were released by U.S. immigration authorities.

Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House said Thursday that nonprofit groups have had to expand their services because more people are crossing the border and the government doesn't have the space to hold them.

Garcia estimates his organization spends \$150,000 a month renting rooms because

there isn't enough shelter space. More than 500 people arrived on Wednesday.

Sister Norma Pimentel of Catholic Charities in Texas' Rio Grande Valley says her respite center is also serving more people than usual.

The Department of Homeland Security has come under harsh scrutiny after the second death of a migrant child in U.S. custody in three weeks.

A DHS spokeswoman says the U.S. is in "an immigration crisis."

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Dr. Okea Joins Vida Y Salud

Dr. Remigius N. Okea, Family Medicine Doctor, has joined the medical staff at Vida Y Salud Health Systems, Inc., El Centro De Salud, as our new Medical Director.

Dr. Okea attended the University of Nigeria Faculty of Medicine and was awarded his degree in 1993. Dr. Okea acquired his internship from Bronx-Labonon Hospital Center in New York from 2/2004 – 6/2007. Dr. Okea is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, and certified in General Family Medicine



Remigius Okea M.D., Medical Director

Vida Y Salud-Health Systems, Inc., Board of Directors, Administration and Staff welcomes Dr. Okea as Medical Director and a member of our workforce team.

As a new member of our Medical Professional Staff, Dr. Okea will provide general family medicine for all Zavala County and contiguous rural service area patients.

New patients are welcomed.

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8 AM to 6 PM
Wednesday: 8 AM to 9 PM

WALK IN hours between 8 AM to 9 AM and 1 PM to 2 PM, Monday thru Wednesday
WALK IN hours between 8 AM to 9 AM Thursday

DENTAL CLINIC HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday : 8 AM to 7 PM

DENTAL SCHEDULE FOR THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH:

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Monday – Friday: 8 AM to 6 PM

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117 East Hwy 57, La Pryor, Texas
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• The After Hour On-Call number for medical questions for established patients is (830) 374-2301

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830-374-2301 – Administration, Fiscal, Accts. Payable, Billing/Collection, Maintenance

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830-374-2303 – Dental Appointments

830-374-2304 – Nurses Station, Pharmacy, Immunizations, & Labs

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830-374-2873 – Behavioral Health Department

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830-374-9341 – Outreach, Eligibility Enrollment, & Market Place Insurance Services

830-374-3238 – Crystal City ISD School Based Clinic

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Part 6: All Shall Be Taught by God (John 6:45)

By Celestino Luna

The Fifteen Spiritual Talks

#1 – "All blessings and promises God made possible in the work of the Cross".

Proof – Galatians 3:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 1:18-22.

#2 – "The Holy Spirit works in those whose faith is on the Cross of Jesus Christ".

When Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:14-15 that just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so it is necessary that the Son of Man be lifted, (Jesus was speaking of the Cross) so that "whosoever believed in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life". Jesus was speaking of what is written in Numbers 21:8-9. God told Moses to raise up a pole and attach a bronze serpent for the people of Israel had angered God and God sent serpents to bite and kill them and the people asked Moses to pray on their behalf and God told Moses to look at that pole (the Cross) and to look at it with faith and they would not die. The cross

of Jesus Christ is the means by which we are redeemed (forgiven). Romans 3:25 teaches us that our faith rests on the shed Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus, my friend intercedes for all who openly confess Him as our Lord and Savior for in John 17:9 Jesus said "I pray for them, I do not pray for the world but for those that Thou gave to me for they were Yours".

#3 – "He who has the Holy Spirit is spiritual and speaks words taught by the Spirit". Proof – 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

#4 – "Remember Joseph – His ten brothers forsook him and sold him into slavery but God was with Joseph and Joseph was a blessing to others". Proof – Romans 8:29 "And we know that those who love God all things help them for good that is, all who are called by God for His purposes". Why would God say that? Because the world may hate you, as Christians we are all partakers of the sufferings of Christ but God

encourages us that everything will be okay.

#5 – "Men do not light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick and it gives light unto all who are in the house". Proof – Matthew 5:15 The Lord tells us that what we have learned from Him we should share with our household. The Word of God is a Light, ignorance of the Word of God is to walk in darkness.

#6 – Is similar to Light. "Salt gives a taste but if it loses its flavor it is worthless". Proof – Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with Grace, season with salt that you may know how you ought to answer every man". Every time I go to preach and teach across the border it is to encourage people with the Word of God. Actually, to me they are family too as I speak to them as I would speak to my sons and daughters and grandchildren.

#7 – "A fountain of sweet water cannot produce water that is bitter". Proof – James 3:6 tells us that the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. With our mouth we bless God and curse people. Do you know anybody like that? Do you know people who are bitter and curse others?

Next week part 7 God willing it will be the last article in this series.

As I close this article I pray that you all had a Merry Christmas with your family. [E-mail sharons312@gmail.com](mailto:sharons312@gmail.com) friend's e-mail address to send articles to friends and family.

Nation's oldest World War II vet dies in Texas at age 112

By PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Richard Overton, the nation's oldest World War II veteran who was also believed to be the oldest living man in the U.S., died Thursday in Texas, a family member said. He was 112.

The Army veteran had been hospitalized with pneumonia but was released on Christmas Eve, said Shirley Overton, whose husband was Richard's cousin and his longtime caretaker.

"They had done all they could," she said.

He died Thursday evening at a rehab facility in Austin, Texas, she said.

Richard Overton was in his 30s when he volunteered for the Army and was at Pearl Harbor just after the Japanese attack in 1941. He once said that one secret to his long life was smoking cigars and drinking whiskey, which he often was found doing on the porch of his Austin home.

His recent birthdays drew national attention and strangers would stop by his house to meet him. Even well into his 100s, he would drive widows in his neighborhood to church.

"With his quick wit and kind spirit he touched the lives of so many, and I am deeply honored to have known him," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement Thursday, calling Overton "an American icon and Texas legend."

"Richard Overton made us proud to be Texans and proud to be Americans," the governor added. "We can never repay Richard Overton for his service to our nation and for his lasting impact on the Lone Star State."

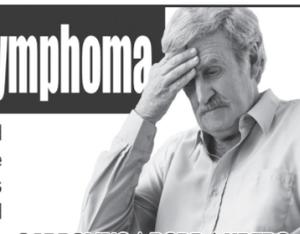
Overton was born in 1906 near Austin and served in the all-black 1887th Engineer Aviation Battalion.

In 2013, former Presi-

dent Barack Obama honored Overton at a Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

"He was there at Pearl Harbor, when the battleships were still smoldering," Obama said of Overton. "He was there at Okinawa. He was there at Iwo Jima, where he said, 'I only got out of there by the grace of God.'"

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¿Quién cumple con los requisitos para las exenciones disponibles?

Cualquier persona que es el dueño de una propiedad el primero de enero y la utiliza como residencia principal en esa misma fecha tiene derecho a la exención contributiva residencial de \$25,000 para reducir los impuestos escolares a pagar. No importa si la residencia es una casa, un condominio o una casa móvil. Los condados, ciudades y distritos imponibles especiales también pueden ofrecer exenciones contributivas residenciales.

¿Existe alguna otra exención?

Si usted es discapacitado o tiene 65 años o más tiene derecho a una exención contributiva escolar adicional de \$10,000 para la residencia. Y, si cumple con los requisitos para exención por la edad de 65 años o más, o es discapacitado tiene derecho a una cifra de impuestos congelada al llegar a cierto punto específico y permanente de impuestos escolares por la propiedad. El condado, la ciudad o universidad comunitaria pueden también congelar el límite de impuestos a pagar para las personas de 65 años o más y los discapacitados. Los límites de los impuestos escolares para las personas de 65 años o más son transferidos al cónyuge sobreviviente si el sobreviviente tiene 55 años o más al momento del deceso, es el propietario y reside en la propiedad. Los propietarios residenciales de 65 años o más, o el cónyuge sobreviviente, puede transferir a una nueva residencia el porcentaje del impuesto sobrevalorado y basado en el límite máximo de impuestos.

Si usted es un veterano discapacitado, cónyuge sobreviviente o hijo sobreviviente de un veterano discapacitado, tiene derecho a una exención de una porción del valor tasado de su residencia. Esto incluye residencias donadas a veteranos discapacitados por organizaciones caritativas sin costo a los veteranos discapacitados y sus cónyuges sobrevivientes.

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Si usted es un cónyuge sobreviviente de un miembro de las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos que murió en acción, tiene derecho a una exención sobre los impuestos del valor total tasado de su residencia.

¿Debo solicitar la exención anualmente?

No. Si usted recibió la exención residencial de la propiedad el año pasado no es necesario solicitar nuevamente a menos que el jefe de tasaciones así exige. Por otro lado, si usted no ha recibido la exención en la residencia actual o se mudó a una nueva residencia usted debe presentar una solicitud de exención. En caso de cumplir 65 durante este año, puede solicitar la exención por edad de 65 o más hasta un año después de que cumplió 65. Si se vuelve discapacitado, usted puede solicitar una exención para personas con discapacidades.

¿Dónde y cuándo debo solicitar la exención?

Debe solicitar antes del 1ero de mayo en la oficina del distrito de tasaciones. De ser el caso de que necesita tiempo adicional, contáctenos en:

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Si el terreno nunca ha sido tasado en base a la productividad, o es usted un nuevo propietario, debe solicitar al distrito de tasaciones local antes del 1ero de mayo para tomar ventaja de este beneficio para los impuestos de la propiedad. Puede recibir hasta 60 días adicionales si presenta razón justa y solicita antes del primeron de mayo. En caso de no cumplir con esta fecha, podría solicitar, pero debe pagar una multa. Consulte con la oficina del distrito de tasaciones.

¿Debo solicitar la tasación anualmente?

Si los terrenos ya son tasados de acuerdo a la productividad agrícola o de madera, usualmente no tiene que volver a solicitar, a menos que el jefe de tasaciones así exija. El distrito de tasaciones enviará un aviso por correo si necesita solicitar.

Para más información, llame o visite:

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323 W. ZAVALA ST.
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OBITUARY

GUADALUPE P. MUNOZ



Guadalupe P. Munoz of Crystal City, Texas was born May 13, 1944 and passed away December 25, 2018 at the age of 74.

Mr. Munoz was preceded in death by his parents, Miguel and Matilde P. Munoz; brother, Miguel Munoz.

He is survived by his wife,

OBITUARY

Rafaela J. Munoz; sons, Israel Aldape Jr., David Munoz, Guadalupe Munoz II; sister, Elena Moreno; brother, Salvador Munoz; grandchildren Isaiah Aldape, Jacob Aldape, Aryahna Mia Cardenas Munoz.

Pallbearers were Guadalupe Munoz II, David Munoz, Johnny Jimenez, Raul Jimenez, Rene Jimenez, Oscar Rendon Jr., Pablo Melendrez, Jaime Salvador.

Visitation was held on Friday, December 28, 2018 from

OBITUARY

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and a Rosary was recited at 7:00 p.m. at Castle Ridge Mortuary in Crystal City, Texas.

Funeral service was at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 29, 2018 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crystal City, Texas

Interment followed at Edgewood Cemetery in Crystal City, Texas on Saturday, December 29, 2018.

Funeral services entrusted to Castle Ridge Mortuary-Crystal City.

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These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will close on February 27, 2019. You have until August 26, 2019, to redeem any tickets for these games: **#2064 Double Doubler** (\$1) overall odds are 1 in 4.56, **#2048 Double Match** (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.47, **#1862 Bonus Break The Bank** (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 4.29. **Txlottery.org** is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2019 Texas Lottery Commission. **PLAY RESPONSIBLY.**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO DISCUSS

CRYSTAL CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

State Financial Accountability Rating

2018 School **FIRST**

(Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas)

Crystal City ISD will hold a public meeting at

5:30 p.m., January 7, 2019

At the Crystal City ISD Central Administration Offices, 613 W. Zavala St., Crystal City, TX.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform Crystal City Independent School District's community of the Status: "Passed" and a Rating: C = Meets Standard. The rating is based on the School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas), the Texas Education Agency's system developed to monitor and improve the management of the District's financial resources.

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TexSCAN Week of December 30, 2018

ACREAGE

15 acres east of Eldorado. County road frontage. Gently rolling with beautiful oak tree cover. Whitetail, blackback, axis, hogs, turkey. \$2700 down, \$448/mo. (9.9%, 20 years). Several tracts to choose from. 800-876-9720, www.ranchenterprisesltd.com.

AUCTION

41st Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale, 12 Noon, Jan. 19, 2019, El Campo Livestock Auction, El Campo, TX. Adrian Knight Tx Lic #11102 Kelly Conley Tx Lic #9558. 903-452-7591, 903-850-3449, www.cattlemansale.com.

BASEBALL

BASEBALL TOURS – See MLB Games at Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, Wrigley Field, etc. Deluxe motor coach transportation, quality hotels and game tickets. Free brochure 507-217-1326.

CHARITY

Donate a boat or car today to Boat Angel. 2-Night Free Vacation. Sponsored by Boat Angel Outreach Centers to stop crimes against children. 800-700-BOAT, www.boatangel.com.

GUN & KNIFE SHOW

Texas' Biggest & Best Gun & Knife Show! Jan. 5-6. Dallas Arms Collectors Association, your store for personal protection, military, hunting, targets, ammo & much more! Dallas Market Hall, 2200 Stemmons Fwy., 972-369-6062.

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Roundup®, a common weed and grass killer, may be linked to the development of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in farm workers and employees in garden centers, nurseries, and landscapers. Call 800-460-0606 for professional insight or visit www.RespectForYou.com/NHL.

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McLane in Fort Worth is expanding and has great opportunities for CDL-A Drivers, Warehouse, Clerical and Warehouse Supervisors! Hiring Event: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Jan. 4 and 8 a.m.-noon Jan. 5, 7550 Oak Grove Road, Forth Worth, TX 76140. McLANE.NORTHTHEXAS.COM.

WANTED

FREON R12 WANTED: Certified buyer will PAY CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. 312-291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com.

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Karing for Kids Event Highlights



Thank You!



The **CRYSTAL CITY FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**

would like to thank the following sponsors, businesses and individuals who contributed to the

2018 KARING 4 KIDS CHRISTMAS EVENT

Without your help the Karing 4 Kids would not be a success.

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